

TREATMENT OF URINARY INCONTINENCE AND OTHER DISORDERS BY APPLICATION OF ENERGY AND DRUGS

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a division of United States Patent Application Serial Number

09/407,658, filed September 28, 1999, *now U.S. Pat. No. 6,692,490.*

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 15 This invention relates to treating body tissue, particularly to treating body tissue by altering the shape, density, relative geometry or tension of that body tissue using energy or substances deployed from an interstitial location in the body.

RELATED ART

- 20 Urinary incontinence results from a number of factors. Increasing age, injury from childbirth and related stresses can cause the relative tone of the bladder and accessory muscles to weaken, which, in turn, causes an impaired inability to retain urine. Weight gain and overall deterioration of muscle tone can cause increased abdominal pressure which overcomes sphincter resistance. Nerve pathways that
- 25 cause the "urge" to urinate can be hyperactive. The relative tension of the urethra can change with age, causing poor urinary control. Injury to the detrusor muscles or to the trigone area also results in impaired urinary continence.